

Leicester,
Dec. 29 175.

Dear friend Garrison;

I have just
(this evening) returned home, bringing
with me your beautiful gift of Mr.
Whittier's volume of Poetry, - a
(Song of Three Centuries)
Christmas gift indeed, in beautiful
harmony with the best which that
wood commemorates. How could
you get me so elegant & valuable
a book! and how pleased I am
that you did! I have already
enjoyed much ~~of~~ ^{my} it; - for a volume of
what Y. C. W. esteems the best
English poetry must needs be a very
great treasure, and to have it
as your gift (except that you have
already given to me far too many
of these handsome gifts) makes it
far more valuable to me. As a
selection I think I shall prefer ^{it} to
either Bryant's or Emerson's. Its
plan & arrangement

are admirable, ~~men~~, and its
Indexes of Authors, Subjects, first Times,
&c. make it perfect for use and
reference. I spent more than an
hour over it last evening, delighted
with the constantly-recurring wealth
of its pages, and more than even
admiring and reversing the beautiful
spirit of the man, conspicuous in the
character of these selections. If
any part of the book seems to
me less valuable than the rest,
it is, perhaps, the last 50 or 60 pages;
and yet I know these contain some
exquisite pieces (Punch's on Abraham
Lincoln, for one, and Miss Kimball's
"all's well" for another), and I shall
doubtless yet find there some of the
beauties which Mr. W.'s keen eyes
saw at once. Thank you, my
dear friend, for this great store-house of
deep, rich, elevating thought, of
tender, humane, beautiful feeling.

I could not easily believe that any other language existing in the world holds in its compass so much exquisite and glorious poetry as ours.

This book will become, I am sure, to a great many persons one of the Handbooks of their daily life, - of study, work, & recreation; and more and more indispensable to them; and Mr. W. has conferred a very great benefit indeed upon the entire public in preparing & issuing it.

With kind remembrance to your wife, daughter & sons from all my family as well as myself, and with our united thanks to yourself and best wishes for a happy New Year to you, each & all, of course including all the grand children,

Yours, affectionately
Sarah May.

